



US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



454834

REPORT OF FIRE ON INLAND RECLAMATION, INC. LANDFILL ON 9 AUGUST 79

At or about 1340, 9 August 79, I received a telephone call from a Ms. Hojdar that there had been an explosion and fire on the Inland Reclamation, Inc. site.

Upon arrival at the site at about 1400, a fire was noted. Fire fighting equipment was at the site and was in the process of fighting fire.

In talking to personnel at the site, it was found that a BFI waste container had unloaded and left the site. Soon after the fire was started. Spray cans of paint were flying through the air after they had exploded.

About one-third of the working face was on fire. Two tracked vehicles were pushing dirt onto the fire to smother it. The wind was blowing in such a manner that kept the rest of the face from catching fire.

At or about 1430 the fire equipment left the scene after spraying the burning area with water. The tracked vehicles continued to cover the smoldering areas.

Two waste trucks at the scene were noted to be damaged. One was a Newburgh Hts. packer truck and the other was found to be owned by McCalley Trucking or Rubbish Company. This vehicle appeared to be totalled in that it's aluminum box walls were melted and only the twisted frame of the box and a little of the walls remained.

Other factors prevented this fire from becoming worse that was noted:

- I. The wind was from the east to the west. The BFI load was dumped on west edge of the face, thus, allowing only a relatively small portion of the face to catch fire and burn.
- II. The side slopes of this site which made up the adjacent area about the face had recently been re-covered with up to three feet of additional cover. This prevented the fire from getting to any other cell except the one being built on 9 August 79.

III. Large amounts of cover material had been moved to the edge of the face in preparation of covering this day's cell.

IV. Some covering of the eastern edges of the day's cell had already taken place. The fire was a result of unfortunate acts, but could have been worse indeed if other acts had taken place, such as: improper covering of previous cells, no stockpiling of cover material, spotting of the BFI vehicle at the eastern edge rather than the western edge of the cell, and the like.

It is not felt that the landfill was in any way responsible for this fire. It appears to be the result of acts of others; however, it should again be noted that the fire could have been worse if the operational techniques of the landfill personnel were not what was found.

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enclosures

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